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REMARKS

Claims 10, 15, 16 and 18-28 are pending.

This Supplement to the Amendment filed on June 12, 2003 makes only a minor amendment to claim 16. To this end, claim 16 requires "... one or more burners adapted to maintain said melt of synthetic vitreous silica in said refractory container above its sintering temperature, at least one said burner being a synthesis burner ...". No other amendment to the claims is made by this Supplement. No new matter was added.

See the Applicants' Amendment filed on June 12, 2003 for the Applicants' response to the various rejections stated in the Examiners' Office Action dated March 13, 2003.

A favorable action on the merits is requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment for entering this Amendment to our deposit account no. 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,
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